

5

Science Standard
5.3.c.



Dictionary

California Education and the Environment Initiative



Precipitation, People, and the Natural World

Dictionary

A

acid

A chemical, like vinegar, that can corrode materials like chalk and limestone.



acid precipitation

Precipitation, such as rain or fog, with higher-than-normal acidity, usually caused by air pollution.



aerosol

A tiny particle of a liquid or solid that floats in the air.





agriculture

The practice of growing crops and raising animals for food, fiber, or other use by humans.



aqueduct

A structure used to move water from one place to another.



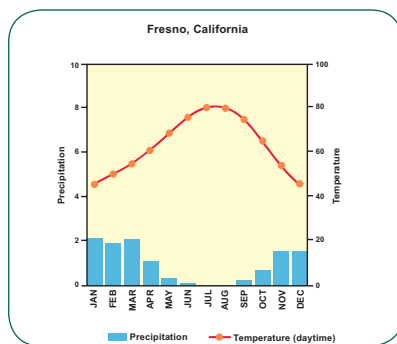
climate change

A long-term significant change in the weather patterns of an area.

C

climatogram

A graph that shows average monthly temperature and precipitation for a given area.



condensation

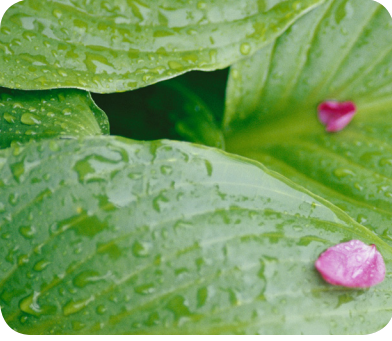
The process by which a gas changes to a liquid.



dam

A structure that stops, slows, or changes the flow of water, so that it collects in a reservoir.





dew point

The air temperature at which water vapor condenses.



drought

A long period of time with little or no precipitation.



evaporation

The process by which a liquid changes to a gas.

E

F

fog

A thick cloud of water droplets that collects close to the ground.



fossil fuel

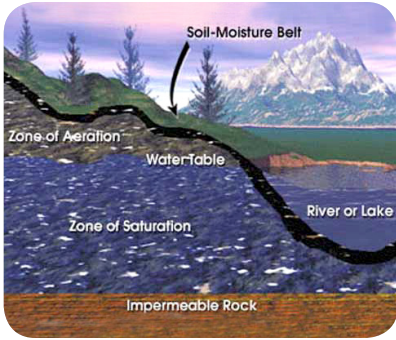
A source of energy, such as oil, natural gas, or coal, that formed from living organisms that died millions of years ago.



freezing rain

Rain that freezes and forms ice when it hits the ground.





groundwater

Water in underground streams and aquifers (layers of rock and soil) beneath Earth's surface.

G



hail

Precipitation in the form of solid ice, that ranges in size from a pea to a softball, that occurs during intense thunderstorms.

H



industry

Businesses that manufacture or produce and sell certain types of goods and services.

I

irrigation

A system that provides water to land through pipes, artificial channels, or other methods.



natural system

The parts, processes, and cycles in an environment, and the interactions among plants, animals, and other organisms with their environment.



nitrogen oxide

One of the chemical mixtures of nitrogen and oxygen produced during burning.





pollutant

A waste produced by human activity that contaminates the environment.



precipitation

Water that falls from clouds to Earth as rain, mist, hail, sleet, ice, or snow.

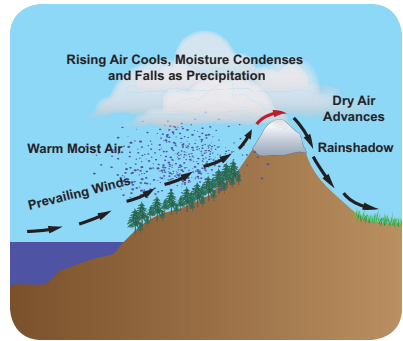


rain

Precipitation in the form of drops of water.

rainshadow effect

The result of most of the moisture being lost by clouds as they cool by moving up and over a mountain range.



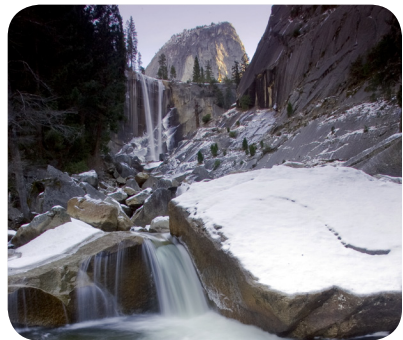
reservoir

A lake or other storage area where water is collected and kept for future use.



runoff

Water that flows over the ground and into streams and rivers.





sleet

Precipitation in the form of frozen raindrops.



snow

Precipitation in the form of flakes of ice crystals.



snowpack

The total amount of snow or ice on the ground.

sulfur dioxide

The chemical compound of sulfur and oxygen that is produced during volcanic activity and industrial processes.



urban heat island

An urban area that is hotter than the surrounding area due to the presence of buildings and heat-absorbing and heat-reflecting surface materials.



U

Unit Title: **Precipitation, People, and the Natural World**

Grade: **5**

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